

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01136 161054Z  
ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07  
INR-07 NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 USIA-06 PRS-01 NEA-10  
ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 /088 W  
-----161345Z 016641 /43

R 141100Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7500  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1136

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PLAB, ILO  
SUBJECT: ILO - 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC)

REF: (A) STATE 102699, (B) DAKAR A-19 (NOTAL)

DAKAR FOR REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER; MAPUTO FOR IO ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY MAYNES

1. MAURITANIAN DELEGATION TO 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BE: SAKHO MAMADOU, NEWLY-APPOINTED MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND LABOR, CHAIRMAN; SOW MOUSSA DEMBA, SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ORGANIZATION, UNION DES TRAVAILLEURS MAURITANIENS (UTM); MOKTAR TOURE, PRESIDENT, CONFEDERATION DES EMPLOYEURS ET ARTISANS DE LA MAURITANIE (CEAM); BABA AMADOU TANDIA, DIRECTOR OF LABOR, MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND LABOR; AND MADAME BA IBRAHIMA, DIRECTRESS OF THE PROTECTION MATERXELLE INFANTILE (PMI) PROGRAM IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH. IN ADDITION CHEIKH MELANINE ROBERT, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UTM WHO ALSO HOLDS THE RANK OF MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO IN THE GOVERNMENT, WILL ATTEND CONFERENCE AS ADVISER TO THE MINISTER OF LABOR RATHER THAN AS OFFICIAL MEMBER OF DELEGATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 01136 161054Z

2. ABOVE DELEGATION PROPOSED TO MAURITANIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND FORMAL APPROVAL EXPECTED ON MAY 13. SOW, TOURE, TANDIA AND ROBERT HAVE BEEN FREQUENT MAURITANIAN REPRESENTATIVES TO INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCES DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS ON US-ILO ISSUES WITH SOW, TOURE

AND TANDIA DURING RLA'S FEBRUARY 1977 VISIT TO MAURITANIA. (SEE REF B, COPY SENT GENEVA.) THESE OFFICIALS HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE UNDERSTANDING OF THE US POSITION VIS-A-VIS ILO AND SHOW A WILLINGNESS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT US VIEWS IN ARRIVING AT MAURITANIAN POSITION. SAKHO MAMADOU, WHOSE APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND LABOR WAS ANNOUNCED ON MAY 6, 1977, HAS NO EXPERIENCE IN LABOR FIELD. MADAME DA IBRAHIMA, WIFE OF MAURITANIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE, IS HIGHLY REGARDED PMI DIRECTRESS WHO IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH PEACE CORPS IN ESTABLISHING HEALTH PROGRAM IN MAURITANIA, BUT SHE APPARENTLY HAS LIMITED EXPERIENCE IN LABOR FIELD. LACK OF EXPERIENCE BY SAKHO AND BA SHOULD BE OFFSET BY EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS.

3. SOW MOUSSA DEMBA NOTED IN MEETING WITH CHARGE WAT DECISION ON MAURITANIAN POSITIONS AT ILC WILL BE MADE AT HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVEL AND THAT HE AND OTHER EXPERIENCED DELEGATES WERE FAMILIAR WITH US POSITION AND CONCERNS. HE COMMENTED ON APRIL AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI AND ON US DELEGATION ACTIVITIES AT THE ILC. SOW BELIEVES THAT DECISIONS TAKEN AT TRIPOLI MINISTERS CONFERENCE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS TENTATIVE IN NATURE AND DID NOT NECESSARILY PRESENT FINAL POSITION AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD TAKE AT ILC. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE STATED THAT MANY DELEGATES HAD IMPRESSION (MAINLY GATHERED FROM STATEMENTS BY ALGERIAN DELEGATE) THAT ILO GOVERNING BODY HAD BEEN PRESSURED BY US TO MAKE UNILATERAL DECISION TO CLOSE THE BOOK ON 1974

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 01136 161054Z

CONFERENCE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL. SOW EMPHASIZED THAT MANY DELEGATES WERE CONFUSED BY OPERATIONS OF GOVERNING BODY AND HAD IMPRESSION THAT GOVERNING BODY WAS MAKING DECISIONS RIGHTFULLY RESERVED FOR ALL DELEGATIONS AT FULL CONFERENCE MEETING.

4. SOW, AS AN EMPATHETIC OBSERVER OF US POSITION, OFFERED SEVERAL COMMENTS, BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE AT PREVIOUS ILO MEETINGS, AS TO PROBABLE ACTIVITIES OF AFRICAN DELEGATES AT ILC. HE NOTED THAT DECISIONS AT ILO MEETINGS ARE OFTEN MADE IN THE CORRIDORS, WITH AFRICAN DELEGATES QUITE OFTEN VOTING IN DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO THE POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENTS THEY REPRESENT. LIBYAN FINANCIAL LARGESSE WAS WELL KNOWN AND HE HAD PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE OF SEVERAL FRANCOPHONE WEST AFRICAN DELEGATES WHO ACCEPTED SUCH GIFTS AND WHOSE VOTES WERE INFLUENCED ACCORDINGLY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE US DELEGATION TO THE ILO USUALLY HAD ONLY TWO OR THREE FRENCH-SPEAKING OFFICIALS. A LARGER NUMBER IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO INTERACT EFFECTIVE-

LY WITH THE LARGE NUMBER OF FRENCH - SPEAKING AFRICAN DELEGATES WHO, SOW BELIEVES, HAVE AT PREVIOUS CONFERENCES COME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION OF BEING IGNORED. US DELEGATES WHO CONCENTRATE ON NON-AFRICAN DELEGATIONS. BY CONTRAST, LIBYA HAS 17 AND ALGERIA 10 DELEGATES ACTIVELY LOBBYING WITH AFRICAN DELEGATIONS. HE NOTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED AN INVITATION FOR, AND PLANNED TO ATTEND THE PRELIMINARY WORKER DELEGATE CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TWO DAYS BEFORE THE ILC MEETING. HE EXPECTED TO LEAVE NOUAKCHOTT ON MAY 28 AND TRAVEL TO GENEVA VIA PARIS. WHILE IN PARIS HE WOULD VISIT IRVING BROWN, WHOM HE CONSIDERS BOTH A FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE.

5. AMBASSADOR HANDYSIDE IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN FROM CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE ON MAY 16. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MOUKNASS HAS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN IN ORDER TO

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NOUAKC 01136 161054Z

DISCUSS SEVERAL PRESSING ISSUES WHICH AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN CONFERRING ON AT ABIDJAN CONFERENCE. AFTER AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH MOUKNASS EARLY NEXT WEEK, HE EXPECTS TO HAVE BETTER IDEA OF FINAL MAURITANIAN POSITIONS REGARDING ILC.

FARLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING AGENDA, MEETING DELEGATIONS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 14-May-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977NOUAKC01136  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770173-0336  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** NOUAKCHOTT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770558/aaaabxwc.tel  
**Line Count:** 145  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5c46d593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION LAB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 STATE 102699, 77 DAKAR A-19  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2523126  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ILO - 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC)  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PORG, MR, ILO, (SAKHO MAMADOU), (SOW MOUSSA DEMBA), (MOKTAR TOURE), (BABA AMADOU TANDIA), (BA ABRAHIMA)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5c46d593-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009